

National Heritage Areas Alliance Update

ANHA

PPL Corporation Supports ANHA and Three Pennsylvania National Heritage Areas

In an important show of support, PPL Corporation, a Pennsylvania-based utility company, has become the first corporate supporter of the Alliance of National Heritage Areas. "By helping with this important preservation effort, PPL is supporting the rich heritage of our communities and advancing opportunities to bring new jobs and investment to Pennsylvania," said Donald Bernhard, PPL's manager for Community and Economic Development. He announced PPL's support during the ANHA's annual meeting in Washington, D.C. "We believe in sustainable development and building on the rich heritage of our communities," Bernhard said. "These are ideals that the ANHA strongly supports."

PPL's \$20,000 donation will be divided four ways. The Delaware and Lehigh National Heritage Corridor, the Schuylkill River Valley National and State Heritage Area, and the Lackawanna Heritage Valley in Pennsylvania will each receive \$5,000. The funds will support their respective programs focused on education, environmental stewardship, historic preservation, heritage tourism and cultural

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10th Annual Congressional Reception a Great Success; Draws Largest Recorded Attendance

In a record breaking attendance, well over 300 heritage development and historic preservation professionals joined the membership of the Alliance of National Heritage Areas for its 10th Annual Congressional Reception on Monday, March 3rd in Washington, DC. Held at the Hart Senate Office Building, the event brought together heritage area supporters from across the country. Distinguished guests included John Nau, Chairman of the White House Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, Richard Moe, President of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Jay Vogt, President of the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers and Dayton Sherrouse, Chairman of the Board of the Alliance of National Heritage Areas.

To open the evening, Chairman Sherrouse welcomed all the National Heritage Areas staff, congressional staff and historic preservation professionals in attendance. He shared memories of earlier congressional receptions and noted that this year's gathering was the largest yet. Next, ANHA executive director John W. Cosgrove recognized the work of reception co-hosts Preservation Action, the National Trust Advisors, and the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers (NCSHPO). Cosgrove then introduced National Park Service Associate Director Dr. Janet Snyder Matthews, who took a few moments to commend the conservation and resource stewardship leadership provided by the Heritage Areas movement. Her thoughtful remarks also touched upon the important economic impact of heritage areas, in particular their efforts to improve quality of life in communities across the country.

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Dr. Jan Matthews, Associate Director of the National Park Service welcomes guests



ANHA Chairman Dayton Sherrouse visits with Charlie Flynn and Ron Hamm.



Members of the Gullah Geechee Commission enjoy the festivities



Preserve America Chairman John Nau visits with ANHA E.D. Cosgrove, Essex NHA Executive Director Annie Harris and ANHA Chairman Dayton Sherrouse

Photo credit: John Consoli

Legislative Update

H.R. 5505 (Jackson, D-IL), To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to determine the feasibility of designating the study area as the Black Metropolis District National Heritage Area in the State of Illinois, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5279, S. 2604 (Cummings, D-MD & Mikulski, D-MD), To establish the Baltimore National Heritage Area in the State of Maryland, and for other purposes

S. 2808 (Coburn, R-OK), To require that citizens within a National Heritage Area are informed of the designation and that government officials must receive permission to enter private property.

S. 2809 (Coburn, R-OK), To ensure that there are no adverse effects of a National Heritage Area designation to local communities and home owners.

Partner Update



*Acting National
Coordinator for Heritage
Areas Ed W. Clark*

For the past four months, Ed W. Clark has been serving as the National Coordinator for Heritage Areas. He offered the following words as a parting reflection on his recent experiences working with the National Heritage Areas program.

When I started working with heritage areas last December, I was like many in the National Park Service (NPS). I had an understanding of National Heritage Areas and could even name a few, but was by no means an expert. These last four months have opened my eyes to both the tremendous benefits and the passionate people working in this field.

One of the most striking observations I have made is the way heritage areas enhance the mission of the NPS. The traditional NPS model of protecting resources requires a significant financial commitment. In today's world of shrinking budgets and increased expenses, it is

imperative that new and innovative conservation strategies take shape to complement the work done by park units and staff. Heritage areas answer this call by leveraging government resources in an effective manner, making use of partner networks and grassroots support in a way that bodes well for the future of cultural and natural resource protection in this country.

When I return in less than week to my position in Shenandoah National Park, I will do so with a new found understanding and appreciation for the work heritage areas do. In all of my future endeavors, I will spread word of the heritage area model.

After returning to Shenandoah for a few weeks, Clark will be moving on to become Superintendent of Manassas National Battlefield Park in Manassas, Virginia. He can be reached at ed_w_clark@nps.gov.

Student Conservation Association Interns to Serve in Southeast Region

The Southeast Region of the National Park Service is seeking two qualified candidates to serve as Student Conservation Association (SCA) interns during 2008-2009. The interns would be tasked with assisting the nine National Heritage Areas in the region and with enhancing the NPS-NHA partnership. For more information visit this website - www.thesca.org. The position code is 6740.

Publications *and* Resources

Omeka Free Software Released by Center for History and New Media

A new free and open-source web publishing platform for museums, historical societies, libraries, and other similar organizations is now available. Produced by the Center for History and New Media at George Mason University, in partnership with the Minnesota Historical Society, the Omeka program (<http://omeka.org>), allows small institutions to expand their online presence. Omeka is the result of ten years of digital public history work, experimentation, and technology development on projects such as The September 11 Digital Archive (911digitalarchive.org) and Object of History: Behind the Scenes with the Curators of the National Museum of American History (objectofhistory.org). Omeka is funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation.



Assistance

Scenic Byways Grants Available

Each year, the National Scenic Byways program provides merit-based funding for byway-related grant projects. To learn more about the many opportunities, visit <http://www.bywaysonline.org/grants/application>



National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Offers Grants to Small Institutions



The NEH is now offering Preservation Assistance Grants to smaller institutions including non-profits and state and local government. The funds are aimed at improving the preservation and care of humanities collections.

Suggested projects include collection assessments, consultations, workshops, and institutional and collaborative disaster and emergency planning. Grants cover consultant fees, workshop registration fees, related travel expenses, and the costs of purchasing and shipping preservation supplies. This year, the maximum award amount has been increased to \$6000. Applications are due May 15, visit <http://www.neh.gov/grants/guidelines/pag.html> for more information.

Save America's Treasures Grant Cycle Now Open

Save America's Treasures offers matching grants for preservation and/or conservation work on nationally significant intellectual and cultural artifacts and historic structures and sites. Eligible applicants include Federal (including NPS), state, local, and tribal government entities, and nonprofit organizations. Applications are due May 20, 2008. Application guidelines are available on our website, at: www.nps.gov/history/hps/treasures/application.htm, or at www.grants.gov.

Preserve America Now Accepting Grant Applications

The Preserve America matching-grant program provides funding to support preservation efforts through heritage tourism, education, and historic preservation planning. Eligible applicants include Designated Preserve America Communities and Neighborhoods, State Historic Preservation Offices, Tribal Historic Preservation Offices, and Certified Local Governments in the process of applying for Preserve America Community Designation. Applications are due June 30, 2008. Guidelines and applications are available at: www.nps.gov/history/hps/hpg/PreserveAmerica/index.htm



In addition to the Congressional Reception, the ANHA also held its annual meeting on March 3rd and 4th. Attendees participated in general business sessions as well as a program roundtable focused on "Heritage Development Finances: Looking Beyond the NPS Funds." Executive Directors from Augusta Canal National Heritage Area, Schuylkill River National Heritage Area, Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area and Silos and Smokestacks National Heritage Area shared their experiences and advice with colleagues both new and old, eliciting many interesting questions and comments. The meeting provided a great opportunity for networking, as heritage development professionals shared stories of best practices in the field.



ANHA Executive Director John Cosgrove welcomes reception guests with South Carolina National Heritage Corridor Executive Director Michelle McCollum and SCNHC colleagues Anna Friar Joyner and Crystal Arnold.

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conservation. The Heritage Development Institute, the professional development and education arm of the ANHA, will receive the remaining \$5,000 from PPL's donation and use it to attract financial support from other corporations. "We are very pleased to have the generous support of PPL," commented John W. Cosgrove, executive director of the Alliance of National Heritage Areas. "We understand that when PPL makes business decisions, it looks for the solutions that balance the interests of everyone involved and provide a positive outcome for the community, the environment and the economy. Our partnership will provide those solutions."

News *from* the Heritage Areas

National Aviation Heritage Area Readies Wright "B" Flyer for France

Volunteers working on the Wright "B" Flyer recently completed an important milestone on their schedule to ship a new aircraft to France this summer. On February 10th, nearly 8,000 pounds were placed across the "upside down" wing section of the flyer to simulate maximum inflight loads. The wing section successfully passed the test and has since been unloaded, coated, and will soon be covered with fabric. Volunteers have been working 6 days per week to complete the new Wright "B" in time to place it in a "box" and ship to France. The crew has dubbed the new aircraft the "B in the Box."



Volunteers work on the Wright "B" flyer in Dayton, OH.

Essex National Heritage Area Welcomes Dennis Reidenbach, New Regional Director

On February 27, the new Northeast Regional Director of the National Park Service, Dennis Reidenbach, visited the Essex National Heritage Area. On hand to greet Mr. Reidenbach were Annie Harris, Essex Heritage Executive Director, Patty Trap, Superintendent of Salem Maritime and Saugus Iron Works NHS, key Board and staff members, municipal leaders, and partners representing several Heritage Area initiatives.

In addition to reviewing progress on the Border to Boston Trail and Coastal Trails Coalition, Essex Heritage grant recipients updated Mr. Reidenbach on various initiatives including the regional "Buy Local" program. Regional Director Reidenbach also visited the Saugus Iron Works National Historic Site, which is preparing for its grand re-opening. This visit was confirmation of the strong working partnership between Essex Heritage and the National Park Service and the critical heritage preservation projects undertaken by this collaboration.



Silos and Smokestacks Announces Grants for Summer Internship Initiative

In March, Silos and Smokestacks National Heritage Area awarded \$7,710 in grants to help fund six summer internship positions at Heritage Area partner sites. Intern projects will focus on telling the story of American agriculture in northeastern Iowa. Examples include a project at the Carrie Lane Chapman Catt Girlhood Home in Charles City, Iowa as well as work at a living history farm in Urbandale, Iowa. Several museums in the state will also host interns as part of the initiative.

For more information on heritage areas, please visit our websites.

The Alliance Update is a partnership project of the Alliance of National Heritage Areas and the National Park Service National Heritage Areas Program.

Send your heritage area events and news to the editor by the 18th of the month for inclusion in the following month's bulletin.

Please forward this bulletin to others who may be interested, and encourage them to join our e-bulletin address list.

- Reach the editor at Eleanor_Mahoney@contractor.nps.gov
- To subscribe or unsubscribe, send an email to the editor.

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Conferences and Events

National Heritage Areas Meet with National Park Service in Midwest and Northeast Regions

In early March, five heritage area directors and other NHA staff gathered together in Omaha, Nebraska to share ideas, discuss challenges and celebrate individual and collective accomplishments. A variety of regional NPS staff also joined the group at specific junctures to discuss partnership and technical assistance opportunities.

Don Short (Silos and Smokestacks), Judy Billings and Debbie White (Freedom's Frontier), Ana Koval and Glenn Fiala (Illinois and Michigan), Gary Familian and Elizabeth Szufnar (MotorCities) and Dan Rice (Ohio and Erie) joined Regional Director Ernie Quintana, Deputy Regional Director Dave Given, Assistant Regional Director Marty Sterkel and National Heritage Partnerships Coordinator Sue Pridemore in a robust two and a half day dialog. Also present were Acting National Heritage Areas Coordinator Ed W. Clark and Program Assistant Eleanor Mahoney.

At the end of the meeting, participants agreed to formalize the ongoing collaboration between the NPS and the NHAs in the Midwest Region. Everyone in the gathering committed to developing a set of actions to work on together to further enhance the relationship and the program. For example, MotorCities National Heritage Area will be sponsoring a "micro-website," where the attendees can post ideas and comment on one another's endeavors.

In addition to the meeting in the Midwest, another regional Heritage Areas gathering took place last January in the Northeast. At this one-day event, National Heritage Area directors and superintendent park partners (superintendent partners within or adjacent to a NHA who are lead conduits for NPS assistance) met with the new Regional Director Dennis Reidenbach during a facilitated meeting in Pottstown, PA - headquarters of the Schuylkill River NHA. Heritage Area directors and NPS staff shared their experiences, both positive and challenging, with working in partnership. There were presentations and discussions about funding, evaluation, and the transparency and consistency of communications. Participants also explored ideas for improving the NHA-NPS relationship. Some of these ideas are being implemented through regular phone calls and more direct communication with the regional director.

Delaware and Lehigh National Heritage Corridor

Designated as a National Heritage Corridor by the U.S. Congress in 1988 and as a Pennsylvania state heritage park in 1993, the Delaware and Lehigh (D&L) National Heritage Corridor is recognized for its important history and rich and distinctive cultural and natural resources. The D&L travels 150 miles through five Pennsylvania Counties, following the historic transportation systems of the Delaware and Lehigh Canals as well as overland rail lines dating to the early 19th century. The D&L is steadfast to its mission to be a leader in the preservation, protection, conservation, interpretation and enrichment of the cultural and natural resources of the area.



The D&L Trail follows historic canal towpaths and rail lines that transported anthracite coal from mine to market. This path exposes walkers, hikers, bicyclists and others to some of Pennsylvania's finest wild lands, wildflowers and wildlife in the Wyoming Valley.

Corridor, which date to this era of rapid economic development, continue to maintain a high degree of historic and architectural integrity.

Between 1989 and 2007, the Heritage Corridor was governed by the Delaware and Lehigh National Heritage Corridor Commission, a federal body created in the authorizing legislation. In 2007, the Corridor Commission transferred management to the Delaware and Lehigh NHC, Incorporated, a Pennsylvania non-profit. The new management entity is building on the solid groundwork laid by the Corridor Commission, including the continuation of partnerships with local, state and federal governments, non-profit organizations and private businesses throughout the region.

For almost twenty years, the dedicated staff of the Corridor has worked side-by-side with local communities to implement the vision laid forth in the D&L's management plan. Key projects include the development of a graphic identity and interpretation system, a Corridor wide trail system, the creation of a regional Market Towns revitalization program in the northern part of the Corridor, the enhancement of many historical resources, and the dedication of new visitor centers in downtown Easton and Jim Thorpe, PA.

Recent initiatives include the Landmark Towns of Bucks County - a cooperative venture between the historic boroughs of Bristol,

Morrisville, New Hope and Yardley that aims to generate economic development through cultural tourism and downtown renewal. The Lehigh Valley Industrial Heritage Coalition, another project, brings together

30+ partners focused on the interpretation of the region's industrial heritage, including the



An important community resource, the Walnutport Locktender's House Museum in the Lehigh Valley is one of two remaining original canal residences.

former Bethlehem Steel site. In addition, at the request of Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), the D&L is currently serving as the local managing partner for the Lehigh Valley Greenway. This program involves a partnership of DCNR, the Counties of Lehigh & Northampton, local municipalities and several land trusts to conserve and connect the many steam valley corridors in the region into one greenway network

As one of the nation's earliest designated heritage corridors, the D&L continues to serve as a model for other heritage development projects. Built upon the stories and the vision of local residents, the Corridor's success now stands as testament to the power of grassroots conservation strategies.

Originally a corridor of commerce, the Canals continue to be an engine of economic growth for the people and communities of eastern Pennsylvania.



From former Lenape villages to bustling cities, the D&L includes communities and towns that lend character and personality to this multi-faceted heritage area. Towns like New Hope in the Delaware Valley speak volumes about the regional culture.

DELAWARE AND LEHIGH NATIONAL HERITAGE CORRIDOR